



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 428**

February Session, 2008

Substitute Senate Bill No. 580

*Senate, April 3, 2008*

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. HANDLEY of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTIES OF VETERINARIANS WHEN  
PRESCRIBING PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) Prior to or  
2 simultaneously with the direct dispensation of a drug to the owner of  
3 an animal, a veterinarian shall undertake a review of any drug  
4 dispensed to such owner by the veterinarian. The review shall include  
5 screening for potential drug therapy problems due to therapeutic  
6 duplication, a contraindication between a drug and a disease, the  
7 interaction of one drug with another, incorrect drug dosage or  
8 duration of drug treatment, the interaction of a drug and an allergy,  
9 and any other significant clinical issues relating to the appropriate use  
10 of drugs. Such review shall be based upon current standards.

11 (b) Prior to or simultaneously with the direct dispensation of a drug  
12 to the owner of an animal, a veterinarian shall discuss with such owner  
13 the drug to be dispensed and shall counsel the owner on the usage of  
14 such drug. The discussion and counseling offered in accordance with

15 this subsection shall include information deemed significant by the  
16 veterinarian based upon such veterinarian professional judgment and  
17 the findings of the review conducted in accordance with subsection (a)  
18 of this section, including (1) the name and description of the drug; (2)  
19 dosage form, dosage, route of administration and duration of drug  
20 therapy; (3) special directions and precautions for preparation,  
21 administration and use by the owner of the animal; (4) common severe  
22 side or adverse effects or interactions and therapeutic  
23 contraindications or precautions that the veterinarian deems relevant;  
24 (5) proper storage of the drug; (6) prescription refill information; and  
25 (7) action to be taken in the event of a missed dose or adverse reaction.

26 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a  
27 veterinarian to provide counseling and information when the owner of  
28 the animal refuses such counseling and information.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section

**PH**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

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***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***The Out Years***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 580*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTIES OF VETERINARIANS WHEN PRESCRIBING PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires veterinarians to undertake certain review and counseling activities when dispensing medications.

The veterinarian must review any drug dispensed to the animal's owner before or at the time of dispensing the drug. This review must include screening for (1) potential drug therapy problems because of therapeutic duplication, (2) a contraindication between a drug and a disease, (3) the interaction of one drug with another, (4) incorrect drug dosage or duration of drug treatment, (5) the interaction of a drug and an allergy, and (6) any other significant clinical issues relating to the appropriate use of drugs. The review must be based upon current standards, but the bill does not specify what those standards are.

The bill also requires the veterinarian to discuss the drug and counsel the owner on its use before or at the time of directly dispensing the drug. The discussion and counseling must include information the veterinarian considers significant based on his or her professional judgment and the findings of the review required above. Such information must include (1) the drug's name and description; (2) dosage, dosage form, route of administration, and duration of drug therapy; (3) special directions and precautions for preparation, administration, and use by the owner; (4) common severe side or adverse effects or interactions and therapeutic contraindications or precautions that the veterinarian considers relevant; (5) proper drug storage; (6) refill information; and (7) action to take in the case of a missed dose or adverse reaction.

The bill specifies that a veterinarian is not required to provide counseling or offer information when the animal's owner refuses it.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2008

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29 Nay 1 (03/17/2008)